

Bavarian News

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Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

July 26, 2006

IN MEMORY

9th Engineer Soldier remembered

by SETH ROBSON

Stars & Stripes, European Edition

A 9th Engineer Battalion Soldier who died while training at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr was remembered at a memorial July 14 as an avid computer gamer and practical joker.

Spc. Joshua E. Mullinix, 22, who joined Company A, 9th Engineer Battalion in December, died at Grafenwoehr's Range 126 at about 4 p.m. July 11. An investigation into the

Cause of July 11 death still under investigation

death is ongoing, 1st AD officials said in a press release issued July 13.

Company A commander Capt. Geoffrey McKenzie, 30, of Marianna, Fla., recalled Mullinix as a solid performer and hard worker in the motor pool.

"He was a valued member of our team and he is missed sorely," McKenzie said.

Staff Sgt. Jonathon Badinger, 30, of Piedmont, Okla., said Mullinix, like

many of the young Soldiers who served with the unit, was an avid video gamer.

"He was extremely generous," Badinger, also with Company A, said. "Whenever the opportunity arose for a donation for Army Emergency Relief or anything that would help other Soldiers out he was always there."

One of Mullinix's closest friends in the unit, Pfc. Daniel Williams, 21, of Rural Retreat, Va., recalled many

exciting battles the two fought playing the video game Halo.

"He kicked my butt a few times," Williams said.

The pair often talked about what they would do when they got out of the Army, he said. "He was going to go home and try to get a bachelor's degree," he said.

They also liked to joke with each other, Williams added. "The last time we were at Grafenwoehr we were on

motor pool gate guard, and this Humvee came up and I was getting ready to go check it out and he said he'd get it.

"He peeked through the window and said: 'Give me all your money,' and I started laughing," Williams said.



Mullinix

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Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment conduct EST training at Vilseck July 12.

2SCR hits the ground training with EST, Guard Fist simulation

Story and photo by JODI WARD

Staff writer

Vilseck's newest residents, the 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, is back to business as usual.

The 2SCR Soldiers are spending their days in rigorous training, including exercises at Vilseck's Engagement Skills Trainer and conducting Guard Fist training.

Both are simulation exercises that provide realistic combat training at a fraction of the cost, manpower, and logistical support of field exercises.

While simulation training does not take the place of critical field time, it has saved the

Department of Defense hundreds of millions of dollars in work hours, supply (ammunition, fuel, etc.), and maintenance costs.

The EST, for example, is "like a giant video game," said 2SCR's 1st Lt. Steve Hampson, "but it's more serious than that because it simulates scenarios our Soldiers would face in combat. It hones in on skills they need to improve on."

The EST tests Soldiers reaction to enemy fire using "shoot/no-shoot" scenarios.

Firing laser-equipped 9mm, M4, M16, M203, and M249 weapons, they engage the targets, projected on a widescreen. Green circles on the screen register shots fired and "kills."

Once firing is complete, soldiers review their

on-screen hits and misses.

It's good because leaders can look on and then go over the points their Soldiers need to work on," said Hampson during the unit's July 12 training in Vilseck.

EST Scenarios include coming under enemy fire while conducting detainee operations, pulling guard duty, and running checkpoints.

While many Soldiers admit that the EST is as fun as any videogame, they also realize that it provides live-saving training by prepping them for combat situations they are likely to face while deployed.

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PX closure, new sports bar topic of meeting

Story and photo by JODI WARD

Staff writer

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle kicked off the July 19 town hall meeting at the Vilseck post theater with a word of welcome to the garrison newcomers.

One of his first orders of business was the garrison's tight budget. He said the financial challenges that the community is undergoing is likely to continue through fiscal year 2007, but that the command group is working hard to give residents and personnel the best services possible.

Boyle and garrison representatives briefed attendees on community issues for about 30 minutes before opening the floor for questions.

USAG G's Army and Air Force Exchange Service general manager, Matt Mennona, reminded parents who qualify for the free or reduced school meal program that they can register their students at the Vilseck PX or Grafenwoehr PowerZone.

He said entitlements from the previous school year do not carry over, and parents must reregister their children.

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A Vilseck post resident discusses issues with USAG G Housing Manager Robert Arbios after the July 19 town hall meeting.

Don't miss the 2006 German-American Volksfest in Grafenwoehr Aug. 4-6 !!!



The 49th German American Volksfest will be held at Grafenwoehr's Camp Kasserine Aug. 4-6. Come out and enjoy live music, carnival rides, jumping castle, clowns, face painting, games, and more. There will be military displays, food and drinks, and entertainment.

Aug. 4-5: 11a.m.- midnight.

Opening ceremony begins on Aug. 4 at 11 .m.

Aug 6: 11a.m.-11p.m.

Everyone is invited to bring the family!!!



DEERS process changing for contractors

USAREUR news release

Army installations throughout Europe and the United States will stop adding civilian contractors' personnel eligibility information to the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System data base in October 2006.

Instead, contractors' eligibility information for installation access and other privileges will be added via the Web-based Contractor Verification System.

The Defense Manpower Data Center will disable the ability of local identification card offices to add contractors into DEERS and will only accept the automated data feed from the CVS starting Oct. 27.

As of Oct. 28, new contractors must be authorized in CVS to receive a common access

card, and existing contractors must be validated every six months within the system for continued CAC use and renewal.

The information contained within the DEERS data base is used to issue common access cards to military members, civilian employees and contractors to gain access to the unclassified computer network and to some official Websites.

In addition, eligible personnel, including some contractors, will use the CAC for physical access to their workplace and for commissary, Post Exchange and Morale Welfare and Recreation activity privileges.

All U.S. Army, Europe and Installation Management Agency, Europe and their tenant units are required to provide personnel trained

See DEERS Page 13

Q&A

What is your favorite summer activity?

**Desiree Hoffman**

"I like to go to Poland and shop for wicker baskets. I hope to go again soon."

**Carl Badertsche**

"I like to go to all the Volksfests. I especially like the one in Nurnberg. I also like to go to 'Rock in the Park.'"

**Sgt. Maj. Antonio Reyes**

"When time allows, I like going with my family to visit my in-laws who live next to Bodensee, Germany, in the Alps."

**Pfc. Alyn Farvour**

"I like to go swimming and boating at Crown Lake in Arkansas. I just got to Germany, so I will have to find a lake I like out here."

**Pvt. Caleb Jacobi**

"I like to go camping and hiking in the mountains."

**Osara Grant**

"I really like traveling to Spain and Italy during the summer."

**Candice Alexander**

"I like to host barbecues at my house with family and friends."

**Staff Sgt. Vince Mesa**

"Since I am from Guam, I like to go home to the Pacific Islands and see my family."

Opinion & Editorial

Command Message

Relief in sight for grass cutting, community still urged to help

Temperatures seem to be easing a bit, at least at night, but there is still time to enjoy the pools in the surrounding area. Likewise area golf courses continue to offer good deals, so enjoy the rest of the summer before school starts. Speaking of school, don't forget to register your children as soon as possible.

Health Promotion Highlights

USAG Grafenwoehr has a dynamic health promotion council that has two missions: to manage change and promote self-reliance.

As part of the enduring nature of the garrison, additional health care providers and services are starting to migrate to our community.

We recently welcomed another dentist. We also have a more robust physical therapy staff in Vilseck and Hohenfels, and we continually seek to welcome more providers.

A related service is the Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services (ASACS). Generally, you will find these experts in and around the schools offering free, confidential services to our children.

But they are a community asset and work to build life skills for the whole community. I welcome these newcomers and the rest of the health care providers making this a great place

**Boyle**

to work and live.

Grass Cutting Part II

In my last column I spoke of the continuing challenges of grass cutting, specifically the loss of contracts to cut most of the grass on post.

Having gone back and carefully reviewed spending trends, it now appears that we may get through the rest of the summer with only minimal impact on the community.

We will stretch time in between cuttings, which means the grass will grow a bit longer, but it looks like we will make it.

I still challenge everyone to take responsibility for the exterior of your homes. Cut your grass (every cut you do is one less for us), remove weeds, clean up after your pets, and throw away your trash.

Self help still has lawn mowers that can be signed out for short periods of time. I encourage all of you to help me reinforce pride in how our homes and community look.

Why Have Policy Letters?

The USAG Grafenwoehr policy letters have recently been updated and several people have asked me why we even have them.

Some are based on regulatory guidance that require reinforcement, and none of them are designed to ruin your living experience. It's all about safety and respect for your neighbors.

Safety governs why we are so restrictive on pools and trampolines, why we don't allow you to wear headphones while running around post, and why we require helmets while riding

bicycles and scooters.

Respect for your neighbors includes knowing what your pet does (including barking uncontrollably) while you are away, observing quiet hours, and cleaning up after your pets when you walk them.

We continually review these policy letters, and I will use this column to update the changes as they happen.

Policies are hosted on the Internet (<http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/sites/about/policies.asp>) as well as the intranet (<https://intranet/grafenwoehr.army.mil/policies/garrison.htm>).

As July ends, two major events approach. Effective Aug. 1, we will modify gate openings at Grafenwoehr.

We do not expect it to have a negative impact on the community, and we do not expect any security degradation by adopting these measures.

The first weekend in August is the 49th Annual German-American Fest. Come join us as we celebrate the Bavarian lifestyle with great German and American food and drinks, entertainment, static displays, and rides.

As always, the garrison works to make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Criminal behavior by troops hard pill to swallow

Here is the story: For two months this 23-year-old guy was allegedly having phone sex with a woman he had never seen before.

The woman told the guy she was raped even though she was not. From her description, the guy thought that the rapist was someone who worked in the same company. So he reportedly kidnapped the other man, slit his throat, poured gas on the body, lit it on fire, and buried the remains.

Horrible enough. Murder is always horrible.

So why did I think that the crime was so much worse when I read that the 23-year-old-accused was a Navy petty officer? That the victim was a Marine returned from Iraq? That the telephone sex chick was the kind of woman who would wander around Oceana Naval Station collecting telephone numbers so she could randomly call military guys?

The addition of those uniforms suddenly made these events too disturbing for me. Because in my heart of hearts I think military people ought to be above all that. They should be smart enough to know that no one should call you 50 times a day.

They should suspect that someone who is allegedly



JACKIE ECKHART

On the Homefront

wealthy, and willing to send topless pictures of herself is not on the up and up.

Most of all they should understand in the core of their every cell that life is sacred, and that you lay down your life for another guy in uniform, not scheme to take his.

I don't usually react to crimes like this in quite the same way. I try to be a realist. I accept that there is a criminal element acting in my world with malicious intent. But I have trouble accepting criminal behavior from servicemen. I don't know why.

It isn't like the uniform is a leash or a collar. It doesn't prevent people from being to vulnerable to the same jealousies and mental illnesses and addictions and bad

upbringings and raging evils that slay the rest of the population.

Service members are not gods and heroes because of a couple of ribbons and a stripe down the side of their pants. Still, I expect more from them.

Maybe holding military folks to this higher standard is totally unfair. My husband thinks it is demeaning when a criminal is identified as a military person, especially in a headline.

“Maybe holding military folks to this higher standard is totally unfair.”

“Once they commit the crime, they have stripped themselves of the right to be called a sailor,” he said when I showed him this story. “Once you act against honor, courage, and commitment, you are no longer part of the uniform.”

“Do you really believe that?” I asked him. “Do you really think that you can set aside the uniform just because they murder somebody?”

“Yeah, I do,” he said. Well, I don't.

For him, the uniform is something that you have to earn and keep on earning.

For me, it's different. For me the uniform is something that your country bestows on you. It's an honor. It's a responsibility.

You don't don that uniform and everything you do reflects back on it. You aren't allowed to shed it just because you don't believe it in anymore or because you never believed in it.

And that's what adds another layer of tragedy on any crime that a military member commits.

The fact that once upon a time that person aspired to be a man or woman in uniform. They wanted to be a finer person.

They wanted to be held to a higher standard. And they failed.

In the worst way possible, they failed us all.

As the director of CinCHouse, Rettinger oversees the content and communications for the nonprofit community based around the theme of military family education and support.

Reader enjoys July 12 culture column on German national anthem

I enjoyed Martina Bias' column on the German national anthem in the July 12 issue of the Bavarian News.

I know the Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit verse is the official one, but can never remember that it's the third verse.

My favorite verse is the one involving German wine, German women, and German song. I don't know the words and never hear them sung, so I wondered if I had imagined that verse. But you provide proof it exists, though you point out it has never been popular.

Speaking of songs, my soccer-mad half-German Lebensgefährtin (significant other) and her twin 18-year-old sons run around singing the German soccer song about Leidenschaft and

Hand auf's Herz (passion and hand on your heart). Myself, I discovered some years ago how stirring The Badener Lied, the (unofficial) state song of Baden, can be and how enthusiastically residents of Baden sometimes sing it.

One time at a small fest in Boris Becker's hometown of Leimen, some old boys hauled out their accordions and percussion instruments and stood proudly in a small beer tent in a meadow and sang the living hell out of the Badener Lied. That tent was packed with emotion and Leidenschaft and Baden Stolz (pride). Keep up the good work.



*Michael Mowrer
Wiesloch, Baden
Deutschland*

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With smoke obscuring a “burning” helicopter, Muehlhausen firefighters rush to save the pilots during a joint air rescue exercise with Hohenfels emergency personnel.

Garrison Hohenfels unite with city officials for air emergency training

Joint training preps area for emergency

Story and photos by ALICE ADLER
Staff writer
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Emergency health workers care for the injured in the triage area.



Firefighters practice putting on a stabilizing neck collar.

Two helicopters crash-landed in a field. One helicopter burst into flames, and the other is loaded with injured passengers. Firemen rush in to extinguish the fire as medical personnel care for the injured and load them in ambulances. This is not a scene from the television show “ER”. It was the scene in several locations surrounding U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels July 10-14 as local national and garrison firemen conducted air rescue training, honing their skills in case of a real crash emergency.

The training exercise included personnel from the garrison airfield safety office, Hohenfels’ Falcon Observer Controller team, and volunteers.

The air rescue training is conducted annually, but this year’s program was expanded when local national firemen were invited to Hohenfels in May to learn more information about the helicopters used at the installation.

The local nationals studied the different emergency procedures for each helicopter, and continued their training from home with DVDs of crash diagrams.

After a single helicopter crash scenario during the July exercise, a UH-1 “crashed” in a field, and members of the Hohenfels Fire Department’s medical evacuation unit arrived in a UH-60 Blackhawk, bringing the Jaws of Life to the downed copter.

The MEDEVAC team set the crashed helicopter on fire and used smoke grenades to simulate a realistic crash environment. The

local fire department was alerted and, sirens blaring, they arrived on the scene. After quickly assessing the situation, the firefighters rushed to the burning copter to put out the fire and rescue the pilots, saving them from a fiery fuselage.

Meanwhile, the second helicopter, which simulated a hard landing, was full of injured passengers. Firefighters were expected to evaluate the injured more slowly, taking time to stabilize their necks and assess injuries before removing them from the aircraft and taking them to a triage area.

In the triage area, the patients were given emergency medical treatment and loaded onto ambulances to be taken to area hospitals.

While city and garrison personnel were conducting air rescue operations in one location, a third scenario in neighboring Muehlhausen took place.

Rescue personnel arrived by boat to rehearse a scenario in which oil from the helicopters spilled into the river. Enhancing the scenario, a “spectator” at the scene falls into the water, diverting the team’s attention to his rescue. Firefighters and divers rehearsed their actions throughout the day under the cold waters.

After the week-long training was complete, post and city officials gathered for an after action review and conducted additional rescue scenario classes.

Both groups enjoyed the training despite the week’s hectic pace and were pleased with the training.

“They really, really enjoyed it,” said Hohenfels Army Airfield Safety Officer Chance Clagget. “I was very impressed. That is how it is supposed to be done.”



An injured passenger is moved from a helicopter after the “crash”.



A firefighter checks a pilot's vitals during the air rescue exercise.

“ I was very impressed. That is how it is supposed to be done. ”

Chance Clagget
Airfield Safety Officer



Firefighters attend to injured passengers during the exercise.



A pilot is carried to a waiting stretcher.



A MEDEVAC team rush the Jaws of Life to a downed helicopter.



The “crash” scene swarms with rescue personnel.

New to Hohenfels? Here's the scoop on the unique Army garrison

Story and photos by

ALICE ADLER

Staff writer

So you've just recently arrived in Hohenfels? Well, welcome!

The first thing the newcomer to U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels needs to know is that this is a unique place. One of the Army's premier training centers, Hohenfels is known as the Joint Multinational Readiness Group (JMRG).

This is the place where active and Reserve units from all over Europe and the United States come to train before deploying to the world's hot spots.

But American Soldiers aren't the only troops that train here. Soldiers from several Allied Nations train at Hohenfels in preparation for deployments.

What's in a name

One thing you may quickly notice about Hohenfels is that it seems like every other person you meet works for some organization with a name that sounds more like a high school sports team than a military unit.

The Grizzlies and Cougars, Vipers and Falcons. Who are these people anyway?

The answer is found in the heart of what Hohenfels is here for--the rotation.

As you may have discovered, Hohenfels can be divided into two parts: on rotation and off. When Hohenfels is "off rotation," it is a quiet little hamlet nestled in the Bavarian hills. There is no waiting in line at the PX, and you can easily recognize everyone in the commissary.

But soon the convoys arrive, and it becomes clear that the rotation is on again. Soldiers clog the Food Court and are seen walking everywhere. The road from Gate 5 fills with mud from tracked vehicles and everyone's POVs seem to need a bath.

Training Soldiers is what Hohenfels is here for, and to get that mission accomplished many groups come together to coordinate, referee, run and review the mission exercises and live fires that take place during rotations.

The Box

You may also wonder what and where "The Box" is, that mysterious place everyone seems to be going to.

The Box is simply the nickname for the training area, the vast expanse of land just over the hills where the exercises take place.

Although The Box is mostly hills, forests and trails, it includes a number of villages. Some are the remnants of old German towns that once dotted the landscape, and others are mock villages built up to resemble the towns



Role playing as OPFOR, 1-4 Infantry Soldiers provide realistic training by dressing in clothing that replicates world regions where units are likely to deploy.

in countries where Soldiers may deploy.

Urban combat training

The mock villages feature faux stores, town halls, houses of worship, cafes, and homes.

Nestled in the hills of Hohenfels are also a number of cave complexes, recently constructed to aid in the training of Soldiers who will deploy to the cave-filled, mountainous regions of Afghanistan.

The 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry, known as the "Warriors," participates in the rotation by playing the "OPFOR" or opposing force, to train units.

Often donning all black battle dress uniforms, the battalion has earned the nickname "The Men in Black."



Warhog OC team members talk with Soldiers training in the Box for a rotation in Kosovo.

Depending on the rotation, these versatile Soldiers wear a variety of uniforms. In addition to their signature black BDUs, they wear the traditional dress of the countries that the units will deploy to. Wearing BDUs or robes, the OPFOR Soldiers facilitate training by hiding in caves, riding in tanks, and walking the streets of the mock villages.

The OC

The second half of the training team in Hohenfels is the Observer-Controller teams. Mostly named for animals, these "critter" teams encompass all of the aspects of the rotational training.

Many of the OC teams participate in the rotation by coordinating and watching the training, and conducting thorough after action reviews. They

supervise the battlefield simulation and enforce the rules of engagement and the execution of the battle scenario.

Real world scenarios

Their goal is make the training units as ready as possible for combat situations they may encounter.

The Grizzlies, Timberwolves, and Warhogs supervise the training for infantry and armor battalions on the company and battalion levels.

The members of the Mustang team supervise training at the brigade level. The Hawk team is made up of key leaders in Operations Group Headquarters and oversees the various aspects of training.

The Vampire Team is responsible for artillery and fire support units. They also take on the information

operations aspects of the training. The Falcons handle the aviation training, and Adlers OC oversee logistical and support elements.

Out of the ordinary

Specialized OC teams handle other important aspects of training.

The Vipers are a combat camera team that films the war games to aid in the after action reviews. They also often play the role of journalists on the battlefield.

The Blacksheep team takes on the repair and maintenance of vehicles while the Panthers run the live fire elements of training, conducted in the neighboring Grafenwoehr training area.

The Cougar is in charge of Leadership Development and conducts the initial training for new OCs and members of the OPFOR. They collect data for the Center for Army Lessons Learned and provide a Leader Training Program.

Joint Forces

Not all OC teams are made up entirely of Soldiers. The Bullseyes are U.S. Air Force personnel who oversee the integration of the Army and Air Force capabilities.

The Griffins are a mixture of Soldiers and civilians who do the training analysis computer support and simulation. They replicate battlefield effects and collect the critical performance feedback for after action reviews.

Finally, the Oscar team coordinates the work of Civilians on the Battlefield, better known as COBs, who role play civilian elements deploying units may encounter. Roles include everything from village mayor or local farmer to insurgents.

Despite its major training role, there's much more to Hohenfels. Soldiers and civilians throughout the small community take care of all aspects of life on post, providing quality base operations and community support.

Quality support

The staffs at the health and vet clinic care for family members and pets while the military police monitor public safety, and Signal personnel keep post communications up and running.

In addition, two company-size units call Hohenfels home. These units belong to battalions with headquarters elsewhere in Germany. The 94th Engineer Battalion's Company A is currently deployed to Iraq.

The 1st Military Intelligence Battalion's Company A, which flies unmanned aerial vehicles and is often deployed around the world, is based here as well.



Veterinary Clinic Soldiers are responsible for all food inspection on post.

Teen group treks to Italy for Beach Break 2006

Story and photo by **CHRIS HOWARD**

Special to the Bavarian News

Imagine jumping off a 20-foot cliff into the Mediterranean Ocean, eating pesto in the region where it was invented, or sharing stories while eating fresh coconuts on the beach.

U.S. Army Europe youth experienced all this and more during Club Beyond Beach Break 2006.

Two leaders and one youth from Hohenfels boarded a bus and headed down to Camp Darby, Italy, June 16. They joined over 250 high school students from 10 installations and attended the annual six-day high school Beach Break.

Upon arriving, the students toured the bustling streets of Pisa before heading to their final destination at Camp Darby.

Every day began with a communal meal before heading off on a fun excursion. Students visited the Aqua Village water park, the coastal villages of Cinque Terre, and spent several days at the American beach in Tirrenia.

During the evenings, they attended Club Beyond gatherings and enjoyed music by the

band "Starting Tuesday" and listened to a seminar series by Pat Cummings.

Other nightly activities included skits, concerts, games, and extreme challenges. Afterwards, they ended the evening in their tents with small group sessions, reflecting on the days' activities and discussing what they had learned with adult leaders.

On June 24, two leaders and three students from Hohenfels made the trek to Camp Darby to join more than 300 students from 17 installations and attended a six-day Beach Break for middle school students.

"This was a fantastic opportunity for me to invest time into the lives of our youth," said Club Beyond intern Ashley Frerich.

For Club Beyond Community Director Chris Howard, it was all about bonding with the club members and enjoying the trip.

"I really enjoyed getting to know some of our youth better and just having an opportunity to laugh and enjoy life," said Howard. "Our youth need to participate in more trips like these, where they have the opportunity not only to play and have fun with peers, but also to engage in

deeper discussions about life as they begin the process of transitioning into adulthood."

The 2006 Beach Break participants from Hohenfels included Ashley Frerich, Jordan Gaddy, Marcus Gaddy, Chris Howard, Rachel Millock and Alex Wilson.

Future Club Beyond Events (Hohenfels):

■ European Catholic Youth Conference

Aug. 25-27 in Cologne, Germany

■ Club Beyond Banquet, Aug. 18, FLAYC (Bldg. 743)

■ Middle School Service Project

September 1-4, Poland

Beginning Fall Semester

■ The Mug Coffeehouse, Wednesdays at 5 p.m., FLAYC

■ H2O, Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., FLAYC

For more information on Club Beyond, call DSN 466-1570 or COM 09472-83-1570 in Hohenfels, or COM 0160-9876-9678 or aretta.zitta@graf.eur.army.mil in Vilseck and Grafenwoehr.

Club members toured Pisa last month during their annual Beach Break.



Garrison Snapshots



Courtesy photo

Local and garrison communities shared in the day-long festivities during the July 2006 Sorghof Kinderfest and Youth to Youth activities.



Photo by Silvia Wilczek

Civilian employee Werner Lutz (second from right) was recognized for 45 years of service with the Vilseck DPW Friday's Civilian Award Ceremony at Grafenwoehr's Tower View Restaurant. Lutz was congratulated by (from left) Works Council Chairman Klaus Lehl, USAG G Commander Col. Brian Boyle, and Vilseck Mayor Hans-Martin Schertl.



Staff photo by Casey Thomas

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr military policeman Sgt. David Brown documents vehicle speed with a handheld radar on post July 18. The MPs conduct regular traffic assessments to ensure community safety.

Hohenfels' long-awaited beer garden open

Story and photo by
ALICE ADLER
Staff writer

It was worth the wait, according to residents who watched month after month as the walls slowly went up. U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels community members turned out en masse for the July 14 ribbon cutting of the post's newly constructed beer garden behind the post bowling alley. The new building, complete with a retractable roof, spacious interior, plants, and sturdy tables is an attractive addition to the community and is being promoted as an ideal

place to relax and enjoy a good meal. Christina Wilson was announced as the winner of the contest to name the beer garden. Wilson, who submitted the name "Mahlzeit," pulled on the rope to reveal the facility's new sign before the large yellow ribbon was cut. The word Mahlzeit means "mealtime" in German and is used by Bavarians as a way to say "Enjoy your food!" USAG-Hohenfels Commander Lt. Col. Jim Matheson said that the idea for the beer garden started when he was bowling one evening. "I went out the back door and I saw

two guys sitting next to a dumpster at a plastic table," said Matheson. He said he knew that better options were available, and the idea for the beer garden was born. "This is a great addition to the community," said Matheson. Bowling Center Manager James Williams stated that the Hohenfels bowling center is "consistently one of the top five bowling centers in USAREUR." He said that the addition of the beer garden would only make the center better. After the ribbon cutting, guests enjoyed free steak, bratwursts, and beer. A band played traditional beer hall music for the partygoers.



Guests enjoyed free food and drinks at the beer garden grand opening July 14.

Pets should visit vet facility within two weeks of arrival

Vilseck Veterinary Treatment Facility
The mission of the Vilseck Veterinary Treatment Facility is to provide full service veterinary care to military working dogs and limited full service veterinary care to service members and their families within the Vilseck and Grafenwoehr communities. All animals must be registered with the Veterinary Treatment Facility within two weeks of arrival or obtaining the pet. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8 a.m.- noon and 1-4 p.m.; and Thursday from 8 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. The VTF is closed on weekends, all federal holidays, and the last business day of the month. Hours of operation are not guaranteed and are subject to change at any time.

Services to privately owned animals (canine, feline, rabbit, guinea pigs) include:
a. Health certificates
b. Vaccinations
c. Health checks
d. Fecal Exams
e. Medical Diagnostics: blood work, Heartworm checks, X-rays
f. Dentals: routine teeth cleaning, extractions
g. Surgical procedures: Neuters, Spays, Lumpectomies, Laparotomies, Cystotomies, etc. All medical and surgical services are done at the discretion of the staff veterinarian. Clients may be referred to the German economy if services cannot be provided due to time constraints or if the animal is in need of specialized care. We do not provide extended

or long term in house care for any POAs. All after hours emergencies will be referred to off post German veterinarians. A listing of local German veterinarians is available at the VTF. All services provided by the VTF are by appointment only. Schedules for the appointments are opened three weeks in advance. This includes all surgical appointments. All scheduled appointments must be cancelled 48 hours prior to appointment time. Clients who miss two or more scheduled appointments without notifying the VTF will be considered "No Shows" and notified in writing of loss of VTF eligibility. One "No Show" for surgical appointments will result in refusal of future surgical

appointments. The "No Show" policy applies to the owner regardless of how many animals are owned. Payment must be received when services are rendered. We do not offer any sort of payment plans or partial payment options. If you are PCS or ETSing and require a health certificate, you must pay for these services in cash. We accept cash, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, Star card, check and debit (with a Visa or MasterCard logo). As part of the 72nd Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service), we are a deployable unit. Veterinary service to the community may be interrupted or limited due to military obligations. For more information, call DSN 476-2370 or stop by the facility.

Sulzbach-Rosenberg International Music Festival set Aug. 7-20

City of Sulzbach-Rosenberg
Misha Quint, world-renowned New York cellist founded the Sulzbach-Rosenberg International Music Festival in 2005 in the 1,200-year-old Bavarian town of Sulzbach-Rosenberg. Because it was such a success, another festival will take place in the town this year, Aug. 7-20. Again, a faculty of more than a dozen internationally known artists/music professors from the United States and Europe's best music schools will perform with major orchestras and at music festivals worldwide. Some of them, originally natives of Russia, combine their international experience with elements of the famous Russian School. During six concerts, music professors and students will show their musical expertise and talent. Also during the SRIMF, the carefully chosen faculty of musicians will teach master classes to 80 music students from all over the world, with the majority coming from the United States. The two-week experience will help the award-winning students to further develop their

musical abilities, achieve artistic growth, and allow them to network with fellow artists. To order tickets, or for more information, visit Kulturwerkstatt@Sulzbach-Rosenberg.de or call CIV 09661-510110. Ticket prices are as follows:

	Advance Sales	Box Office
Single Tickets	15,00 €	16,00 €
Discount	8,00 €	9,00 €
(Children/Adolescents/Students)		
Six-Concert Series		80,00 €

Luitpoldplatz, the S-R's town center.

LOCATION: Concert Hall at the Music Academy "Berufsfachschule für Musik" (BfM) Konrad-Mayer-Strasse 2, Sulzbach-Rosenberg
TUESDAY, AUG. 8
6:30 p.m. Exhibit Michael K. Yamaoka "Impressions of New York and America"
7:30 p.m. **Cello Recital Director/Founder des SRIMF Misha Quint, New York**
THURSDAY, AUG. 10
6:30 p.m. Exhibit Michael K. Yamaoka "Impressions of New York and America"
Opening Reception of Exhibit by Brigadier General David P. Perkins and Mayor Gerd Geismann
7:30 p.m. **First Concert Master Class Students (Showcase of Award Winners)**
SATURDAY, AUG. 12
6:30 p.m. Exhibit Michael K. Yamaoka "Impressions of New York and America"
7:30 p.m. **First Master Concert of Music Professors**
TUESDAY, AUG. 15
6:30 p.m. Exhibit Michael K. Yamaoka "Impressions of New York and America"
7:30 p.m. **Second Master Concert of Music Professors**
THURSDAY, AUG. 17
6:30 p.m. Exhibit Michael K. Yamaoka "Impressions of New York and America"
7:30 p.m. **Second Concert Master Class Students (Showcase of Award Winners)**
LOCATION OF FINAL CONCERT:
CHRISTUSKIRCHE (Lutheran Church)
Neustadt 3, Sulzbach-Rosenberg (white church in center of town)
SATURDAY, AUG. 19
7:30 p.m. **Concert of the Festival Academy Orchestra**
Conductor: Sidney Harth (Pittsburgh)
Soloist: Misha Quint, Violoncello (New York)

Community Spotlight

What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

Pay attention to construction signs for new traffic routes

Due to ongoing construction at Grafenwoehr, motorists are asked to pay attention to road detour and closure signs for safe driving!

Motorists can find more information, including maps with detailed traffic flow patterns, in the garrison weekly E-newsletter and on the Command Information Channel.

Place your free ad in the Bavarian News online

All valid ID cardholders can place free ads in the Bavarian News. Fill out the form at <http://www.rlehner.de/trainingtimes/freeclass.htm>. Be sure to include a contact phone number.

Youth Ministry serving Vilseck and Grafenwoehr

MCYM/Club Beyond is a chapel-sponsored youth ministry serving the Vilseck and Grafenwoehr communities. It offers a place to belong for junior high and high school students. Come and check out the programs: **HS Club** Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Vilseck Chapel Fellowship Hall **Jr. High Club** Fridays, 3:30-5 p.m. Vilseck MHS, Home Economics Room Small groups are available. Contact Club Beyond for dates and times. For more information, call Aretta at CIV 0160-9876-9678 or e-mail aretta.zitta@graf.eur.army.mil.

Join Protestant WOC for Restore My Heart study

Are you looking for a way to draw close to God? If so, join the Protestant Women of the Chapel for a wonderful bible study called Restore My Heart by Denise Glenn. This study will run through Aug. 17. Meetings are held every Thursday morning at the Graf Girl Scout Hut, Bldg. 122 from 9-11:30 a.m. Free childcare is provided. For more information contact Kristen at CIV 09641-925814.

Vilseck Post Exchange, shoppette has new hours

Effective immediately, the following hours are in effect: **Rose Barracks Shoppette:** Monday to Saturday from 5:30 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. **Main Exchange:** Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. , and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. **MCSS:** Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. , and closed on Sunday, **Concession Mall:** Hours vary from store to store. See vendor for hours.

Revised shuttle bus schedule

The revised bus shuttle schedule can assist you in traveling to the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck posts, and to 2CR Integration and In-processing sites on Vilseck. Shuttles run to and from 11 communities surrounding the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck areas. You can find the bus schedule for your area posted at the bus stop nearest you. If you need help finding the bus stop nearest you, call your sponsor or the garrison DOL at CIV 09641-83-4347 / 6223 or DSN 475-4347 / 6223.

American Red Cross 2006 Summer Schedule
Aug. 2-3,8:30 a.m. - noon
■ Babysitter’s Training, Vilseck Office
Cost: \$35.00
■ Aug. 8, 9:30 -11:30 a.m.
Volunteer Orientation, Vilseck Office
■ Aug. 19, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Adult, Infant, & Child CPR, Vilseck
Cost: \$30.00
■ Aug. 22-23, 8:30 a.m. - noon
Babysitter’s Training, Vilseck Office
Cost: \$35.00
Pre-payment is required for all health and safety classes. Make payments by check or money order at the Vilseck or

Grafenwoehr office. For more information, call DSN 476-1760.

Join the AAFES Buddy List
Be the first to find out about AAFES specials, sales, events, and special news of interest sent directly to your e-mail inbox weekly. You can stop by any customer service desk to apply, or e-mail Chris Litch at litchc@aafes.com.

49th German-American Volksfest set Aug. 4-6 in Graf
Don’t miss the annual German American Volksfest at Camp Kasserine. There will be great fun, food, and entertainment, carnival rides, a live band, jumping castle, clowns, face painting, and more. The fest will be open Aug. 4-5 from 11 a.m. to midnight. Opening ceremony will kick off Aug. 4 at 11 a.m. The fest will be open Aug. 6 from 11a.m. – 11 p.m.

Vacation Bible School begins Monday at Vilseck Chapel
Our Lady of the Woods and Wilder-ness Catholic Community invites you to attend Vacation Bible School at the Vilseck Chapel from 9 a.m. – noon, Monday through Aug. 4. Kindergarten and up. Please register by contacting Corinna Todd at michael_corinna@hotmail.com or Annelie DeJesus at annelie341@hotmail.com.

2006-7 School Registration for Vilseck Elementary
Registration deadline is Aug. 1 for children going into Sure Start through fifth grades. Registration office hours: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday – Friday, closed noon - 1 p.m. Office phone: CIV 09662-83-2812 or DSN 476-2812 – Registrar – Tracy Kellar Please bring the following documents to registration: ■ Sponsor’s orders listing child’s name as a dependent, and any extensions of DEROS ■ Original birth certificate or passport ■ Student social security number (card preferred) ■ Original immunization records ■ Student Records including report cards and/or address/phone number of previous school. Additional Information: New Sure Start & Kindergarten students will need a physical exam prior to taking required immunizations. Contact the Vilseck Health Clinic at 476-2936/2882 prior to taking immunizations.

Christian home educators support group meets in Graf
Grafenwoehr Garrison Christian Home Educators Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month at the Grafenwoehr Post Library between 6 and 8 pm. Come and receive support, share resources, knowledge and your wisdom. For more information, contact Dawn Sovinsky at CIV 09608-923-733 or terry.dawn@asamnet.de

CYS sports, school physicals offered Saturday and Aug. 6
The Vilseck Health Clinic will offer health assessments for CYS, sports, and school physicals for children 4-18 years of age Saturday and Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call DSN 476-2936 for an appointment.

Vilseck Fitness Center hours
In order to support the enhanced needs of the increasing Vilseck troop population, the hours of the fitness center are changed as follows: Monday - Friday, 5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Final VA Briefing for 2006
The final VA Briefing for Vilseck-Grafenwoehr is scheduled Sept. 13. Anyone separating from the Army between now and February should attend one of these informative events. Important topics, such as VA Home Loan Guarantee, Montgomery GI Bill, Disability Ratings, and more, will be discussed.

Call 476-2055 to reserve a seat.
Pope Benedikt XVI presiding over mass in Regensburg
Pope Benedikt XVI will preside over mass in Regensburg Sept. 12. Pre-registration is required to attend this mass. Go to www.benedikt-in-bayern.de and click on the Regensburg tab at the top of the page. On the Regensburg page click on the British flag icon to view pages in English and to follow instructions for registering for the Pope’s visit.

NCOs meet “Recruit the Recruiter Team” Aug. 11
The team will brief all specialists through sergeants first class on the benefits, challenges, and qualifications of recruiting duty at the Grafenwoehr theater 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on Aug. 11. How does more money, faster promotions and assignment preference sound to you? Attendance by all NCOs is highly encouraged. Spouses may also attend. This briefing does not obligate you for recruiting duty. A personal interview following the briefing will determine qualifications. The RTR Team will entertain all questions upon completion of each briefing. Call SFC Perez, 502-626-0465 or Mrs. Johnson-Mulla DSN 475-8814 for more information.

Graf Library hosts youth summertime activities
TOMORROW: Wild Animal Tour 8:30 a.m.-1230 Learn about the wild animals in the Veldensteiner Forest as Dale Doeden, the USAG Grafenwoehr Hunting & Fishing expert, introduces you to local wildlife July 27. Make your reservation at the Vilseck or Grafenwoehr ITR today. The cost for adults is \$6 and for youth \$3. Parents or guardians must accompany their children. There is a small entry fee and an opportunity to purchase animal feed. The bus will depart the Langenbruck Center at 8:30 a.m. and the Grafenwoehr Library at 9 a.m. **Aug. 2: Movie Day 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.** Come to the library for classic pet movies such as “Old Yeller” and “National Velvet.” We’ll pull down the giant screen and watch the shows while we talk about the books the movies are based on. **Aug. 10: Kid’s Fun Day 1-3 p.m.** Meet the library staff on the Grafenwoehr CYS Sports Field for games and fun. We’ll have the jumping castle and games for all as we celebrate the last day of our Summer Reading Program.

New Parent Support group changes playgroup hours
At Grafenwoehr: Caterpillars and Butterflies meet at the Field House every Thursday morning from 10-1130 a.m.. Registration is not required. For children ages birth up to 4 years old. At Vilseck: Caterpillars and Butterflies meet every Wednesday morning from 9:30-11 a.m. at the cChapel nursery. Registration is not required; also for children from birth to age 4 years old. For more info, call DSN 476-2650.

General officer assignments
The Chief of Staff, Army, announces the following general officer assignments: Brig. Gen. David A. Rubenstein, assistant surgeon general, Army Medical

Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas to commanding general, European Regional Medical Command/Lead Agent, Tricare Europe/command surgeon, Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany. Maj. Gen. Kenneth W. Hunzeker to commanding general, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq. He previously served as the commanding general, 1st Infantry Division. General Officer Announcement Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced today that the President has nominated U. S. Army Gen. Bantz J. Craddock for re-appointment to the rank of general with assignment as commander, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. NATO also today approved the President’s nomination of Craddock as

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. Craddock is currently serving as commander, U.S. Southern Command.
Vilseck Family Readiness Center open daily
Family members from 2SCR, deployed units and Soldiers TDY here can now use the FRC to e-mail their loved ones back home or downrange. The center will be open from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily. Send up to five minutes of streaming video to loved ones, morale calls down range, VTC by appointment, FRG meeting room and more. **Location:** Bldg. 273, Vilseck **Phone:** DSN 476-3940 or CIV 09662-83-3940.

Blues Band performing at Heberbrau Brewery Saturday
The American-German band Second Hand Mojo will be kicking off the Brewery Fest for the Heberbrau brewery Saturday. The fest starts at 7 p.m. Enjoy the sounds of live blues, rock, and a little R&B by some of your favorites. **Directions from Graf:** (Kirchenthumbach is 10 miles NW of Grafenwoehr) Take 299 north to Pressath. Take 470 west (in the direction of Auerbach, toward Autobahn A9). Go past Eschenbach (past the lake) and continue about 7 km. Take the first exit for Kirchenthumbach and follow the road into town. Turn left at the t-intersection. Go down the hill and park along the street. The brewery will be on your right, about 100 meters past the small bridge.

Hohenfels Briefs

Warrior Way speed limit reduced during set hours
Effective immediately, the speed limit on Warrior Way will be permanently reduced from 50 kph to 30 kph between the hours of 6 and 8 a.m. Monday – Wednesday and on Fridays to make running PT less hazardous. The speed limit signs will change to 30 kph at 6 a.m. and back to 50 kph at 8 a.m. so pay attention to the posted speed limits.

Sign up for middle school visit to Poland Sept. 1-4
If you are entering the 7th or 8th grade and want an opportunity to serve, Club Beyond has just what you are looking for. Over Labor Day weekend (Sept. 1-4), Club Beyond Hohenfels will take the first 20 middle school youth who sign up to Lwówek Slaski, Poland. Students will have an opportunity to work at the Elim Center in a variety of ways to serve the local community. If you are interested in serving in this capacity alongside other middle school youth from Graf-Vilseck, Wurzberg, and Bamberg, contact Chris Howard as soon as possible at DSN 466-4793, COM 015114943311, or christopher.s.howard@us.army.mil to reserve a spot. The cost of the trip is \$90, which includes transportation, lodging at the mission, meals, and materials.

Sign up for Flamenco dance classes at post gym
We are looking for dancers for our Flamenco dance classes. We need more participation (five persons or more) to keep the class going. Visit the post gym to sign up for the class. If we do not get the participation, we will be forced to cancel the class. For more information, call DSN 466-2883.

Fiesta Vacation Bible School scheduled Aug. 21-25
The Hohenfels Religious Support Office will sponsor Fiesta Vacation Bible School Aug. 21-25, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Registration forms can be submitted electronically to Kathy.elmore@us.army.mil <<mailto:Kathy.elmore@us.army.mil>> or dropped off at any Chapel facility. Call Kathy Elmore at CIV 09498-90-5046 or the Hohenfels Religious Support Office at DSN 466-1570 for more information.

Youth Sports summer camps in session through August
Due to customer demand, the Hohenfels Youth Sports Camps are now open to 7-year-olds. Camps will be run for youth ages 7-9 and for youths ages 10-12. Also due to customer demand, the Youth Sports camps are open to all School Age Services children. SAS will provide free transportation to and from all camps. SAS kids can attend the camps free of charge because their SAS fees cover the camps. Fore more information, call DSN 466-2078, CIV 09472-83-2488, or contact SAS. The remaining schedule is as follows: **Week 4 (July 31 - Aug. 4)** ■ Tennis Camp for Ages 10-12 at the PX Tennis Court from 9 a.m. - noon. ■ Soccer Camp for ages 10-12 at the Commissary Field from 1 - 4 p.m. **Week 5 (Aug. 7-11)** ■ Flag Football Camp for Ages 10-12 at the 1-4 IN Field from 9 a.m. - noon. ■ Cheerleading Camp for ages 10-12 at the Post Gym from 1 - 4 p.m. **Week 6 (Aug. 14-18)** ■ Volleyball Camp for Ages 10-12 ■ Baseball Camp for ages 10-12 at the Commissary Field from 1 - 4 p.m. ■ Basketball Camp for ages 10-12 at the Post Gym from 1 - 4 p.m. ■ Bowling Camp for ages 10-12 year olds at the bowling center 9 a.m. - noon.

Employment with AAFES
AAFES is seeking employees for the following positions: **Laborer:** Receives merchandise from the stockroom and replenishes merchandise on the sales floor. Cleans fixtures and removes empty boxes. Performs a variety of manual tasks involving moderately heavy physical effort. Works inside and outside a facility. Pay Range: LN: 805.31 - 1549.38 US: 7.56 - 8.82 **Senior Store Associate:** Completes price changes, assists customers by providing product information. Takes special orders, rain checks, and catalog orders. Operates cash register and other sales related equipment. Verifies and accepts cash, credit cards and checks. Sells a complete line of specialized merchandise. Pay Range: LN: 1557.44 - 2173.96 US: 7.59 - 13.18 **Shift Supervisor:** Responsible for daily operation of a store. Receives merchandise and equipment, etc. Insures compliance with regulation and policies. Responsible for controlling expenses and accountability. Responsible to train new employee’s. Pay Range: LN: 1869.17 - 2584.21 US: 8.39 - 16.77 If interested, call Lara Clagett (DSN 466-4088) for assistance with applying and submitting a resume.

Late Bus program cancelled until Sept. 29
The experiment with the “last Friday of the month” late shuttle bus to all off post housing areas from Bldg. 3 (PX/ Theater) was unsuccessful due to a lack of riders.

The service has been cancelled for the remainder of the summer and will open again Sept. 29, after the school year starts. If we fail to get any community support after Sept. 29, the program will be permanently cancelled.

Need someone to walk the dog, mow the lawn, or babysit the kids?

Looking for a summer job?

Place a FREE ad in the Bavarian News!

Visit www.rlehner.de/milcom/bn/free.html today!

“*Was der Bauer nicht kennt, isst er nicht.*” Old McDonald had a (Bauernhof), and on that (Bauernhof), he had a ...

by MARTINA BIAS

Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

It seems that whenever I tell someone how long it takes to get to a particular location in Germany, I always add the condition: “depending on if you hit a Stau (traffic jam) or how many tractors are on the roads.”

I am sure you have had the opportunity to enjoy the German scenery while being stuck behind a local farmer and his machinery.

And if you were really lucky, you may have been treated to the smell of his fertilizer-packed “honey bucket” as you waited for a chance to pass.

Farmers on the move

You may wonder why so many farmers are so often out and about and don’t stay closer to their farmhouses.

Unlike their American counterparts, most German farmers don’t live next door to their fields.

You can look and see that most homes are located in the villages while the farmland and fields are located on the outskirts.

Many families through inheritance and marriage have acquired property in various areas in the surrounding counties.

My own family inherited fields that were several kilometers away from our home.

More stringent sanitary and health codes, a byproduct of the European Union, make it necessary for farmers to spend more time in recordkeeping and meeting new requirements than for farmers to spend working the land and tending the livestock.

This has caused many German farmers to give up the age-old profession.



Unlike their American counterparts, many German farmers don’t own fields next to their homes. To get to their farms, they must travel to the fields outside of their villages.

Small farms, large costs

Finances have also become a huge issue for German farmers. Small family operations find it increasingly difficult to cover overhead and adequately provide for their families.

Income from the milk that is picked up daily by large dairy processing companies, and the sale of animals to butchers simply does not bring in enough to live on.

As a child, I remember my family milking the few cows we owned, churning homemade butter from the milk, and making cheese for my mom to use in the cheesecakes she baked for our restaurant.

People would travel for miles to taste the simple, homemade goodness ... until we were told we could no longer sell products with non-pasteurized milk, unlike the big dairy companies.

As a result, most German farmers have to enlarge and expand production to make a

reasonable profit, or farming becomes a hobby as the man of the house is forced to get a “real job” to support his family.

In the latter case, the family may lease their fields to larger farming operations instead of selling them.

Like many, many others, that is what my family did, keeping only a single field to grow potatoes for pig feed and for the restaurant’s big Sunday luncheon meal including potato dumplings.

Potato popularity

You probably are not surprised to see so many potato fields as Germans are known for our love of “Kartoffeln.” In Germany, the beloved spud is the main food source for starch, as opposed to America’s cornstarch.

Why, then, do Germans grow so much corn, and why do they leave it in the fields until it has started to brown?

The answer is easy: It is chopped up and

stored fermented as animal feed for the winter. You can tell how “Americanized” I have become when I tell you about a recent food fiasco with my father in the States.

My husband and I were living in Texas when my parents visited us for the first time in the United States.

The Southern oops

I prepared a typical Southern summertime meal of barbecue ribs, corn-on-the-cob, and baked potatoes.

My dad took one look at the dinner table and walked away furious.

He complained that obviously I didn’t appreciate their visit since I offered them pig feed – potatoes, corn, and a scanty bit of meat that you had to gnaw off the bone.

You have to understand that German butchers usually take most of the meat off the ribs to use for sausage and sell the “meatless” ribs to housewives to flavor their broth.

One last note on German farmers: Calling someone a “Bauer” (farmer) is an insult to a German. It is the same as calling him ignorant, narrow-minded, and old-fashioned, very similar to the American term “country bumpkin.”

The German saying “Was der Bauer nicht kennt, isst er nicht” (what the farmer doesn’t know/recognize, he won’t eat) also illustrates the way Germans picture typical farmers.

Hope you found this information more interesting than my father found his first American cookout meal.

Have you ever wondered why Germans do certain things? I welcome your questions and comments. E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil, and I may be able to address your suggestions in a future column.

Relish simple summertime recipes, straight from garden

Recipe and photos by MARTINA BIAS

Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

It’s summertime and German gardeners have the same problem as their American friends. The big question is “What do we do with all of this zucchini!!!!”

Of course, Germans cook them as vegetable side dishes, but they haven’t really discovered them for baking yet.

You should have seen the look on my mother’s face when I told her that the moist chocolate cake she had been raving about had two cups of shredded zucchini in it!

A common thing that Germans will do with their garden surplus is to preserve the produce as a kind of relish or cooked salad that can be enjoyed during the winter.

Last summer, two German friends shared their favorite zucchini recipe with me. In both cases, the finished products could be eaten immediately (great with barbecue pork dishes), shared with friends and neighbors (they keep well in the refrigerator for a week or so), or canned and eaten later.

I opted for the canning option last summer and gave away the jars as Christmas presents. They were so popular that I have had to give out the recipes several times.

Most Germans do not like spicy foods, but the great thing about these recipes is that you can adjust the “heat” to your liking.

Please don’t be intimidated when I use the term “canning”, as many of my German friends simply save jars with sealing lids (like those salsa, spaghetti sauce, or pickles come in), clean and sterilize the jar and lid in boiling water, and then fill them with the zucchini mixture.



Curry zucchini

Invert tightly closed jars for 10 – 15 minutes and they should seal beautifully. Guten Appetit!

Zucchini Mexikanisch (Zucchini and Bell Pepper Relish)

2 pounds zucchini
2 pounds mixed (red, yellow, green) bell peppers
1 pound onions
1 (30 oz.) bottle ketchup
1 cup vegetable oil
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
5 drops Tabasco (or more to taste)
1 ½ tsp salt
½ tsp. pepper

Wash and quarter zucchini and bell pepper lengthwise and remove seeds. Chop into half-inch pieces. Chop onions as well.

In a large pot, combine ketchup and oil. Bring to a boil. Add chopped vegetables.

Cook on low for about 20 minutes, stirring



Barbecue pork steak with relish

often. Season to taste with Worcestershire sauce, Tabasco, salt and pepper.

Store in refrigerator, or fill into hot jars and top with hot lids. Invert jars for 10 -15 minutes on your counter. Check seals when cooled. This relish may also be canned using the water bath method.

Yield: about 6 – 8 pints

Curry Zucchini (Zucchini-Curry Relish)

3 pounds zucchini
1 pound onions
1 Tbs. salt
3 cups sugar
2 cups wine vinegar
2 ½ prepared Tbs. mustard
1 tsp – 1 Tbs. cayenne pepper (according to taste)
1 ½ Tbs. paprika
1 ½ Tbs. curry powder
2 Tbs. flour

Chop zucchini and onions (not too small).



Zucchini Mexikanisch

Place on a jelly roll pan or in a large bowl and sprinkle with salt. Mix gently and let sit overnight.

The next day, pour off any water. Place vegetables in a large pot and add the sugar, vinegar and mustard.

Bring to a boil and cook gently for 45 – 60 minutes.

Mix seasonings and flour, and sprinkle over zucchini mixture (make sure it doesn’t produce lumps). Stir and cook for an additional 10 minutes.

Store in refrigerator or fill into hot jars and top with hot lids. Invert jars for 10 -15 minutes on your counter. Check seals when cooled.

This relish may also be canned using the water bath method.

Yield: 5 - 7 pints

Do you have a favorite German dish you would like to recreate at home? E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil.

Try something different ! If you like to cook and would like an authentic German recipe, e-mail the Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist for a recipe.

Wondering how to recreate a delicious dish you ate in a village Gasthof or neighborhood cafe?

Let us know. We’d like to feature the recipe in a future issue.

Just e-mail us at martina.bias@us.army.mil. Guten Appetit!

Astros relief pitchers support U.S. troops

American Forces Press Service

Five members of Major League Baseball’s Houston Astros bullpen will collectively contribute to ‘Strikeouts for Troops’ this season.

Strikeouts for Troops a national project created by Oakland Athletics pitcher Barry Zito, benefiting servicemembers injured in battle and

rehabilitating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in Washington, D.C.; the National Medical Center, in Bethesda, Md.; and other military hospitals.

Brad Lidge, Trever Miller, Chad Qualls, Russ Springer and Dan Wheeler join the current efforts of 16 Major League pitchers and four minor league pitchers, including Triple A Round Rock pitcher Jason Hirsh, in providing monetary relief for injured U.S. troops and their families.

“We have so much respect for the men and women in our armed forces, and we want to do

everything we can to support them,” Springer said. “When we visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center earlier this year, it really hit home with us the sacrifice that is being made by these true heroes. It is an honor for us to support them and their families.”

Lidge, Miller, Qualls, Springer and Wheeler will make a combined monetary donation to Strikeouts for Troops at the end of the season based on the final 2006 strikeout total from all Astros relievers. Through games of July 3, the club’s relief pitchers had combined for 222 strikeouts this season.

Established in April 2005, Strikeouts For Troops has raised \$190,836.50 to date through contributions based on various statistical categories from more than 30 professional baseball players on different Major League teams, special events and fan donations on www.strikeoutsfortroops.org, with the funds assisting America’s war-wounded.

Funds raised by the Strikeouts for Troops project help in many ways to bring comforts of home to hundreds of war-wounded soldiers during their rehabilitation process.

In addition, the organization has funded holiday dinners at military hospitals, bought Christmas gifts for families of patients unable to afford them, and helped build a hospital children’s center where kids can stay while their parents tend to medical needs.

The funds also help alleviate the cost of travel and housing expenses for servicemembers’ families.

“I’m grateful to the Astros Brad Lidge, Trever Miller, Chad Qualls, Russ Springer and Dan Wheeler — all fierce competitors whom I respect tremendously,” Zito said.

“We all have been incredibly touched by hearing the courageous stories from our brave soldiers during our visits to Walter Reed Army Medical Center,” he said. “We are simply trying to give back to those who have given so much for our freedom and let them know we care.”

The effort is also funded by contributions to the “Strikeouts for Troops Fund” at the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region.

Spotlight on ZITO



Full Name:

Barry William Zito

Height: 6’4”

Weight: 215

Throws: Left

Bats: Left

Birth Date: May 13, 1978

Birth Place: Las Vegas, NV

Residence: Los Angeles, CA

College: USC

MLB Debut: July 22, 2000

America Supports You golf weekend honors military

Fundraising partnership raises \$450,000 in donations

bySAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY

American Forces Press Service

The Tournament Players Club of Boston and the Defense Department’s America Supports You program teamed up over the Fourth of July weekend to play golf and raise funds to benefit groups who support the nation’s servicemembers.

America Supports You is a Defense Department program that highlights grassroots and corporate support for the nation’s servicemembers.

The partnership that began last year raised \$450,000 in donations from events at all 23 TPC locations nationwide.

This year’s Boston event exceeded the club’s goal by \$5,000. TPC of Boston club member Paul Keating Sr.’s Alder Foods helped make that possible with a \$20,000 donation, said Brian Connor, director of sales and marketing for TPC Boston. Alder has been providing food for the military for 45 years, he added.

“The event, through pledges, through golf fees, through auction fees, ended up with a net of about \$105,000,” Connor said.

The three charities supported by the fund-raiser will equally benefit from the funds raised at the Boston event as well as those raised by the other 23 TPCs nationwide.

The three charities chosen as the beneficiaries of the fund-raiser — Homes for Our Troops, Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and the Wounded Warrior Project — already had visibility on the Professional Golfers Association circuit, thanks to pro golfers lending their support, Connor said.

Pro golfer Phil Mickelson supports Homes for Our Heroes. The nonprofit organization adapts or builds new homes to ensure accessibility for severely disabled servicemembers.

The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, supported by pro golfer Rory Sabbatini, provides financial support for the families of military personnel lost in the line of duty. Pro golfer Frank Lickliter lends his support to the Wounded Warrior Project, which provides direct programs and services to meet the needs of servicemembers severely injured in the line of duty.

With two shotgun starts, one in the morning and another in the afternoon, a total of 200 golfers took to the course.

Others participated in the morning’s silent auction or the afternoon’s live auction, the proceeds of both going to the total raised. One of the auction items was the use of a Maserati, Ferrari or Lamborghini for a long weekend. When the bid got to \$3,500, the Otto Club - a Boston car-share club for exotic automobile aficionados

— donated a second long weekend, which also netted \$3,500.

The evening concluded with remarks from John Melia, founder of the Wounded Warrior project, and John Gonsalves, founder of Homes for Our Troops, Connor said. Army Capt. Marc Giamatteo, a beneficiary of the Wounded Warrior Project, also lent his insight into the importance of such organizations, Connor added.

Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense for internal communications and public liaison, told participants the event shows America at its best, said Amy Sullivan, sales and marketing manager for TPC of Boston.

Sullivan said Barber’s message emphasized “people just supporting their troops as men and women, not anything to do with the war.”

“I think that kind of hit home with me,” Sullivan said.

Barber also acknowledged those who had gathered on a holiday weekend to support the troops, Connor said.

Next year’s Boston event is tentatively slated for July 2, but event officials said anyone wanting to join the PGA Tour Charities 300 Club can donate \$300 by check at any time.

The donation will be evenly divided among the three charities supported at the recent event, officials said. For more information on this program, visit the TPC of Boston Web site.



Courtesy of TPC of Boston

Sgt. Dan Nevins lines up a shot during the TPC of Boston golf fund-raiser July 3. He participated as a guest of the Wounded Warrior Project.

USAG HOHENFELS UNIT LEVEL SOFTBALL STANDING DIVISION (AS OF 14 JULY 06)



TEAM	WON	LOST	PCT
OPS GRP	9	0	0.1000
B CO 1/4 INF.	6	4	0.600
D CO 1/4 INF.	4	4	0.500
A CO 1/4 INF.	3	7	0.300
HHC 1/4 INF.	0	7	0.000

These results are before Block Leave and not all teams were available to play each play date on the schedule due to Military Requirements.

DATE	TIME	SITE	HOME	VISITOR	SCORE
MONDAY 10 JULY. 06	1800	SPORTS FIELD	D CO 1/4 INF.	HHC 1/4 INF. (N S)	7-0
	1900	SPORTS FIELD	OPS GRP.	A CO 1/4 INF.	18-10
TUESDAY 11 JULY. 06	1800	SPORTS FIELD	HHC 1/4 INF. (N S)	B CO 1/4 INF.	0-7
	1900	SPORTS FIELD	A CO 1/4 INF.	D CO 1/4 INF	6-8
WEDNESDAY 12 JULY. 06	1800	SPORTS FIELD	D CO 1/4 INF.	OPS GRP.	1-2
	1900	SPORTS FIELD	B CO 1/4 INF.	A CO 1/4 INF.	5-15
THURSDAY 13 JULY. 06	1800	SPORTS FIELD	OPS GRP.	B CO 1/4 INF.	14-1
	1900	SPORTS FIELD	A CO 1/4 INF.	D Co 1/4 Inf.	4-7

Grafenwoehr ladies defeat Schweinfurt 11-2, 14-3

by KATHY JORDAN

Contributing writer

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr softball teams rank third in the ladies and fourth in the men’s after the July 8 games against Schweinfurt at Grafenwoehr.

The ladies won 11-2 against Schweinfurt in the first game and 14-3 in the second. The men’s team lost 5-7 in the first game, and 9-21 in the second game. The ladies played an aggressive game against their opponents, meeting Schweinfurt on the diamond for the second time this season. The season ends next month.

Grafenwoehr’s Elizabeth Martin had two triples, Tonia Ramer had a triple, and Leigh Perry and Kathy Jordan had homeruns.

Schweinfurt’s Rachel Lutz and Megan Stockdill had two base hits.

The men’s team was unable to pull off win, but will face Schweinfurt again during the end-of-season tournament.

Grafenwoehr’s Miguel Martinez and Harley Jhanson each had a triple, and James Haas had a two base hit.

Schweinfurt’s Nick Lombard hit a homerun, and Will Korn and Tre Campbell each had a two base hit.

Furniture store to replace Vilseck PX

Continued From Page 1

Morale Welfare and Recreation Chief Audre Binder discussed the closure of Vilseck’s Yesterday’s Club and the opening of a new sports bar by October.

“We are creating an environment that will appeal to, hopefully, all of you, and not necessarily just to those who want to dance,” said Binder. In addition to the new bar, “we are going to pilot the first digital lounge in Europe that will have, not only upgraded systems, but full gaming capacity.”

The garrison’s school liaison officer, Steve Vojtecky, reminded community members of the need to register children for the fast approaching new school year. He said parents who have pre-registered online must still visit the school to finish registration, which must be complete by Aug. 1.

Vojtecky noted that parents can take children who will participate in school sports to the health clinic for clinic-sponsored physicals Saturday and Aug. 5.

AFN Station Commander Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs informed attendees that AFN has no control over what programs or movies are shown.

“If you have any concerns or issues you can contact us, and I will forward that to our broadcast center in California,” said Triggs.

Dwane Watsek, the Directorate of Public

Works chief, encouraged residents to aid the garrison in keeping the community in order despite ongoing cost-cutting measures.

“We’re lengthening out grass cutting on post to effectively save dollars that we don’t have,” said Watsek. “So please, if you have an area you need cut, go see the Self Help center and pick up a lawn mower.

“For those living on post, the DPW will cut your grass as long as there is no fence around it,” he explained. “If a fence is put up, the DPW is no longer responsible for maintenance of the lawn.

“For those living in build-to-lease housing, the rules are basically the same. Private rental agreements will determine whether or not the renter is responsible for maintaining their lawn,” said Watsek.

After the briefing, attendees presented post representatives with several issues including Soldiers making too much noise as they return from bars on the weekends, housing problems, Shopette and Commissary hours, the shuttle schedules, and respect for neighbors.

“I was here to find out what others are having trouble with and also to find out about the shuttle schedule, said 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment’s Capt. Jacob Skugrud. “I have Soldiers that are (living off post), and unless they drive a car they won’t make it to formation.”

“We are going to pilot the first digital lounge in Europe...”

Audre Binder
MWR Chief



AAFES’ general manager Matt Mennona shakes hands with attendees after the July 19 town hall meeting in Vilseck. One the most debated issues of the night was the closure of the Vilseck PX.

Staff photo by Jodi Ward

“When my husband goes to housing they give him the runaround all the way around the block,” said Vilseck post resident Nicole Brown. “I want that to end tonight.”

The most debated issue of the night was the closure of the Vilseck PX once the Grafenwoehr PX opens next year.

Mennona said a large furniture store, expanded book store, and electronics store is expected to replace the Vilseck PX. But residents raised concerns about having to drive to Grafenwoehr to shop at a PX.

“Yes, it’s going to be a little inconvenient, I agree, but it’s going to have everything you

need,” said Mennona. “I am trying to provide for your needs. I will have a full array of items here. They may just be in a couple different locations. Logistically, it just doesn’t make sense to run two.”

He said he will do an AFN radio show in the near future in hopes of putting to rest any qualms community members may have with this issue.

The town hall meetings are a “good opportunity to take care of issues,” concluded Boyle, “and it gives me another way to get feedback from the community.”

The next town hall meeting is Oct. 18 in Grafenwoehr.

DEERS process changing

Continued From Page 1

and authorized to input contractor data into CVS. The newly appointed officials will authorize common access cards and verify contractors’ employment every six months in the CVS.

The contractors will continue to receive a common access card at the local identification card office after the authorization in the CVS is complete. Contracting officers’ representatives, trusted agents, corporate managers and other officials who manage contractor administration can receive training on the CVS.

U.S. Army Network Command trainers will conduct on-site and video teleconference training from Monday to Aug. 3 at several locations in Europe. They will train contracting officer representatives and other personnel with contractor administrative responsibilities authorizing contractors to receive a CAC.

“The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is the central repository for information collected about Department of Defense personnel and authorized beneficiaries,” said David S. C. Chu, Under Secretary of

Defense for Personnel and Readiness) in memorandum addressed to DoD leaders. “The Department relies on the accuracy of the information in DEERS to perform many tasks such as providing medical benefits and issuing identification cards which serve as the official DoD identity credential.”

“In the interest of security, it is critical that the integrity of these data not be compromised,” he wrote.

Training takes place at the following locations and times:

- Grafenwoehr Theater, Monday, 9 a.m. - noon.
- Vicenza Hall of Heroes, Tuesday, 9 a.m. - noon.
- Kaiserslautern Theater, Aug. 2, 1:30 - 4 p.m.
- Heidelberg’s Campbell Barracks in Building 31S (USAREUR/G6 Conference Room), Aug. 3 from 9 a.m. - noon, and from 1:30 - to 4 p.m., and Aug. 4, 9 a.m. - noon.

The Heidelberg training sessions will also host video teleconferences, which can be scheduled after registering for the training.

For more information or to register for training, call 370-4PKI (4754) or email to pki_team@hq.hqusareur.army.mil. Registrations must be completed by Friday.

Mullinix remembered



Photo by Shannon Hill

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Mullinix was born in Gettysburg, Pa., and enlisted in July 2003, a program for the memorial ceremony said.

After basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., he was assigned to Company C, 91st Engineer Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas.

He served in Baghdad for a year during Operation Iraqi Freedom II, the program said.

After returning from Iraq, Mullinix was assigned to Company A, based in Schweinfurt, Germany, where he served as a combat engineer.

His awards include the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Mullinix is survived by his father and stepmother, Larry and Dortha Mullinix; his mother, Victoria Schrader; and three sisters, Sara, Shawna and Leah.

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Education Corner

Central Texas offering three Term 1 vocational-tech courses

Central Texas College Vilseck/Grafenwoehr is offering the following three vocational-technical courses in the upcoming Term 1:

- AUMT 2305 – Theory of Automotive Engines (4 credit hours);
- CDEC 1321 – The Infant and Toddler (3 credit hours); and

CJSA 2300 – Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement (3 credit hours).

All three classes are classroom-based and lead to an Associate in Applied Science degree. All classes this term will be held at the Vilseck Army Education Center.

Term I registration is Monday through Aug. 11, and class dates are Aug. 21 – Oct. 14.

Contact CTC field representative Chuck Sligh at the Vilseck Education Center to enroll. For more information on these and other available programs, call DSN 476-2362 / CIV 09662-83-2362, or at vilseck@europe.ctcd.edu.

Visit the CTC Web site at www.europe.ctcd.edu.

University of Maryland begins Term 1 registration Aug. 7

UMUC-E press release

University of Maryland University College-Europe announces the beginning of Term 1 registration.

Students have the option of registering online or through their local field representatives beginning Aug. 7.

Students can earn certificates, and associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees in a broad selection of disciplines. Many classes are available online.

A proud participant in GoArmyEd, UMUC also accepts a variety of financial aid sources, including military tuition assistance, VA benefits, employer tuition remission, loans, scholarships and grants.

Additionally, UMUC has expanded Distance Education options, giving students more online undergraduate courses to choose from—Europe, Asia, and Stateside—at the same European military tuition rate.

Term 1 on-site classes run from Aug. 21 through Oct. 14.

First-time students are also invited to visit local education centers and complete an application for admission to begin their degree program.

While many students face concerns of long deployments or familial obligations, the UMUC programs provide a variety of methods to facilitate degree completion. Moreover, UMUC-Europe offers various options for earning college credit through cooperative

education and prior learning.

UMUC-Europe offers numerous program choices at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

In addition to choosing from a variety of local courses, students are also eligible to take part in distance education courses offered through UMUC in Europe, Asia, or the home campus in Adelphi, MD.

Students with questions regarding veterans educational benefits, financial aid, or transfer credit are encouraged to visit their local education center for assistance. There, they can also find additional information on degrees and courses.

For more information, students may visit www.ed.umuc.edu.

2SCR Soldiers train on EST, Guard Fist

Continued From Page 1

The hi-tech equipment teaches troops to operate within the rules of engagement in unpredictable, high-stress situations, and can be programmed for basic or advanced marksmanship training, and tactical warfare skills.

The EST’s modified weapons include realistic recoil, and a speaker system emits realistic sounds during the scenarios.

During 2SCR’s Guard Fist exercises, Soldiers are trained to call for fire by Airmen from the 2nd Air Support Operations Squadron, a support detachment stationed at Vilseck to aid in 2SCR training. Guard Fist simulation focuses on teaching Soldiers to communicate with air assets in combat environments.

“They are practicing calling in for artillery or mortar fire,” said Staff Sgt. Harrison Anderson of the 2nd ASOS. “This will help them become really proficient in what they do.”

Another cost-effective training method, Guard Fist “doesn’t cost nearly as much, when calling in rounds,” said Sgt. Daniel Parnham of the 2nd ASOS.

“The goal is to hit the ground running,” said 2SCR’s Maj. Gregory Burbelo. “We want to take full advantage of the great training facilities here on Vilseck to ensure that our Soldiers maintain their critical warfare skills and become the best in USAREUR.”